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Mitchell: CIA End-of-Decade Report Bad News

The Central Intelligence Agency has released its end-of-decade report and the news isn't good, Rep. Donald Mitchell, R-C,31, said today.

"The study reports that the Soviets spent two and two-thirds times more on defense than we did from 1970 to 1979," Mitchell said in a prepared statement.

The CIA report also stated that Soviet spending was one of continuous growth during the past decade, Mitchell said.

"In contrast, the trend in U.S. defense outlays was generally downward until 1976 when there were some increases — in procurement, research and development, and operation and maintenance. However, the pattern of decreasing expenditures continued in the areas of military personnel and military construction."

Mitchell, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said events in Iran and Afghanistan have pointed out "some serious inadequacies in our military posture." Those events, Mitchell said, have provoked President Carter to call for badly needed increases in the defense budget.

"We are finally beginning to appreciate the Soviet threat," Mitchell said, "and to realize the surest way to maintain peace is to have the potential for winning the war. I intend to work to insure that our military might keeps pace with the Soviets. I don't want more bad news in 1990."